

Message Text

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APPROVED BY: ARA:WGBOWDLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 036935

TOSEC 149

FOLL REPEAT OTTAWA 0504 ACTION SECSTATE 22 FEB 74 QUOTE

E C R E T OTTAWA 0504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, CA

SUBJECT: CUBAN ASSETS CONTROL AND QUEBEC LOCOMOTIVE SALE

EXTAFF UNDER-SECRETARY RITCHIE RAISED WITH CHARGE TODAY THE
"MOST SERIOUS CONCERN OF GOC IN WORKING OUT WAIVER OF US
CUBAN ASSETS CONTROL REGULATIONS BY USG TO PERMIT QUEBEC
LOCOMOTIVE COMPANY TO MAKE POSSIBLE SALE TO CUBA. RITCHIE
SAID CABINET FULLY AWARE OF US POLICY AND APPLICABILITY OF
REGULATIONS TO THIS CASE, BUT MATTER WAS GRAVEST IN RECENT
YEARS DUE FACTS (1) COMPANY WAS IN FRENCH QUEBEC AND POSSIBLE
SALE FAIRLY IMPORTANT, (2) RISK OF DISCLOSURE OF APPLICATION
OF EXTRATERRITORIAL LAW PARTICULARLY TROUBLESOME AT THIS TIME
OF DEBATE OVER HOW BEST TO MANAGE FOREIGN INVESTMENT, AND
(3) PERSONAL CONCERN OF SUCH PROMINENT MINISTERS AS EXTAFF
MIN SHARP AND FINANCE MIN TURNER OVER POSSIBLE EFFECT OF TURN-
DOWN ON US-CANADIAN RELATIONS GENERALLY. RITCHIE HAD
TALK WITH SHARP ON SUBJECT TODAY. FEELING IS THAT ACTUAL
PROSPECT OF MAKING SALE IS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN, BUT SHOULD

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APPROVAL BE WITHELD, ALLEGATION THAT SALE FELL THROUGH ONLY

DUE TO USG DENIAL OF WAIVER FAIRLY LIKELY. SUCH ALLEGATION WOULD
ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC NATIONALISTS AND NDP AND PUT LIBERALS IN
VERY AWKWARD SPOT VIS-A-VIS POLICY ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND
ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW ACT.

JOHNSON

NQUOTE SISCOE

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